

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

February 4, 1998 LR 322

individual, that no other family is worthy of having a name put on that room. There have been writers, authors, who have brought notoriety to the state of Nebraska. There have been others who have done things that brought a claim to this state. My amendment is up there.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Hudkins announces that the following guests are visiting the Legislature this morning. There are nine twelfth grade students from Ashland-Greenwood High School in Ashland, Nebraska. They are seated in the north balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Nebraska Legislature. Senator Chambers, your light is next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, there are other things that I have to confront that nobody on this floor has to confront, in which even our esteemed colleague, Senator Warner, did not have to confront. What greeted me this morning when I opened the newspaper was this headline: "Moeser Blasts E-mail By Professor As Racist." People get nervous and upset when I talk about racism. A subheadline: Messages to 300 people on and off campus contain a racial epithet or a slang variation of it. Lincoln - University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor James Moeser on Tuesday harshly criticized the action of a UNL faculty member who sent electronic mail messages containing language Moeser called racist. The messages were delivered on the university's e-mail system to more than 300 people on and off campus and out of state. "We condemn this kind of garbage," Moeser said. "Anyone who has received this drivel has been offended." The e-mail messages, from three to seven pages in length, include stream-of-consciousness dialogue and make frequent use of the n-word or a slang variation of it. In the messages, the author talks in a rambling fashion about class distinction and oppression and offers vulgar observations on the President Clinton-Monica Lewinsky story. The messages are primarily commentary on current events, both local and national. Copies of three e-mail memos apparently written by the faculty member Friday, Saturday, and Monday, were obtained by the World-Herald. One begins "My dear and fellow students of literature." That message goes on to use a variation of the n-word ten times in the first paragraph. The paragraph discusses whether it is okay